

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

OLIVIER GERARD ET AL

FR 000099

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXTRACTING SPINE FRONTAL GEOMETRICAL DATA INCLUDING VERTEBRA PEDICLE LOCATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

5. The image processing method of claim 1, wherein the estimation of left and right pedicle landmark location Candidates in each State comprises:

computing, from the spine image data, Feature Values that are characteristic of thin structures;

scanning a region, called Region of Scanning, containing the pedicles, for each vertebra, along scan lines substantially parallel to the pedicle internal border lines, where the pedicle landmarks are to be localized; and accumulating Feature Values of each scan line on an axis, called X-axis that is orthogonal to the scan lines, and transforming the accumulated Feature Values into